

Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Changes relative to the immediate prior version are shown using strikethrough to identify deleted material and underlining to identify added material.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 7 (lines 8-16) with the following amended paragraph:

-- The undifferentiated Dami cell obtained above is then cultured in a serum free (i.e., protein free) cell culture system to obtain a differentiated Dami cell (i.e., a megakaryocyte). FIG. 4 shows the morphology of (a) undifferentiated Dami cells and (b) differentiated Dami cells. Cell morphology of the different Dami cells ~~were~~ was observed with cyospin and Right-Giemsa staining that showed that the undifferentiated Dami cells are round with regular round nuclei and dark gray blue cytoplasm, whereas the differentiated Dami cells are approximately 2-5 times larger with irregular nuclei and rich pink cytoplasm, a morphology typical of mature or late stage megakaryocytes. --

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 (lines 4-8) with the following amended paragraph:

-- In a second series of preferred methods embodying features of the present invention, cells were tested on an XE-2100 hematology analyzer and the megakaryocytes were observed in the WBC/Baso channel. In these scattergrams, the x-axis represents the cell complexity and the y-axis represents ~~cells~~ cell size or forward scatter (FSC). --